

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 10 March 2009

Present: Cllr Mrs J Watson (Chair), Cllr P Corke, Cllr A Gribble.

In attendance: Mrs J. Pearce (Acting Clerk), Members of the public.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence:** Cllrs. M Burge N Collingridge and S Day.
- 2. To receive declaration of interests:** none.
- 3. To approve minutes of Council Meeting on 10 February 2009:** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 4. To receive reports on meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllrs Watson & Corke attended a WHALC Meeting (minutes had been circulated). Cllr Watson attended a meeting with WHBC. Cllrs Watson & Burge attended an Allotment Meeting.
- 5. To receive correspondence:** A letter was received from Mr Bailey of Entech informing of the pollution on The Petit Forestier site. Details were received from HCC on the new Making Memories community project. An open event will take place on 23 March at County Hall.
- 6. To receive a report on youth matters:** James Mansell had canvassed some local young people who suggested they would like a skate park and a chicken farm in the village.
- 7. Planning: (Cllr Corke)**
 - a) New applications: N6/2009/0368/FP The Red Lion, 26 London Road: The Parish Council felt that the shelter was not an appropriate structure to have on the front of the building and will object to the application. **Action: Cllr Corke**
 - b) Decisions: Erection of Replacement Wooden Cabin, Robbery Bottom Lane: Application approved.
 - c) The Chequers, 16 London Road: Cllrs agreed to send a letter to WHBC Planning explaining that the smoking shelter did not detract from the visual appearance of the building and should not have been refused. **Action: Clerk**
 - d) To review the Issues & Options Document: WHBC will hold an open meeting on 11 March at the Civic Centre, Welwyn.
- 8. Hall: (Cllr Watson)**
 - a) To review progress on investigating security measures & limiting noise: A price of £34 per hour had been obtained for providing security for Saturday evening parties. Cllrs agreed to implement the security at all parties for persons under 30 years, engagement parties and wedding receptions for bookings received from 11 March. The cost of sound limiting devices start at £500 plus installation and Cllr Gribble agreed to make further investigations. **Action: Cllr Gribble**
 - b) To review progress on repair to window: The work is due to start this week.
 - c) To review progress on relining of curtains: The curtains had been collected and should be finished within ten days.
 - d) To review progress on the Childrens' Centre: A public meeting will be held on 24 March at 7.00pm.
- 9. Finance: (Cllr Day)**

To receive payments and accounts for February: These had been circulated and were agreed.
- 10. Environment & Transport: (Cllr Collingridge)**
 - a) To review progress on resident's concern on parking outside the school: No progress to report.
 - b) To discuss car parking of Marshall's employees: Employees have been told they cannot park on the Petit Forestier site so Cllr Watson has given Marshall's a key to enable them to use the hall car park although not when a large event is taking place at the hall. Cllrs were concerned that other cars could be left in the car park. Cllr Watson will liase with the manager of Marshall's. **Action: Cllr Watson**
 - c) To discuss damage to verge & road signs by refuse lorries in Longmead: Cllr Cragg has asked WHBC to repair the road signs which will be carried out after April.
- 11. Publicity: (Cllr Collingridge)**

To review progress on Business & Transport leaflets: Will be completed in the next few weeks. **Action: Cllr Watson**
- 12. Grounds: (Cllr Gribble)**
 - a) Groundwork Trust & Mardley Heath: Cllr Watson will be meeting with Countryside Management to discuss the issue. **Action: Cllr Watson**

- b) To receive a report on the monthly playground inspections: Cllr Gribble inspected the playgrounds and reported that a swing seat had deteriorated, there was rust on the spider climber and a bench and fence were rotting. He compiled a rota for the year. Cllr Burge will be asked to carry out April's inspection.
Action: Clerk
- c) To review progress of the playground & Childrens' Centre Signs: Progress is continuing.
- d) To receive a report on the Allotment Society: The Chairman and Treasurer have swapped roles. Funding is being investigated. Mr Wallace has asked the Parish Council to cover his solicitor's fees and will provide an estimate of the cost. The Rector may consider allowing access through the churchyard if a licence is obtained as it is consecrated ground.
- e) To review progress of the Jolly Garden: The Groundwork Trust will prune the Jolly Garden in April.
- f) To review progress of the old pavilion site: The Council will accept the lowest quote of £1,200 for removing the concrete on the site. The application to the Football Foundation for funding is in progress.
Action: Cllr Corke

13. Village of the Year Competition:

- a) To discuss possible location of tree: A maple has been ordered and Cllrs agreed that the supplier plant it, at a cost of £70, on the verge at the corner of the wall backing onto Longmead. A plaque could be mounted to the wall.
- b) To receive a report on the Eastern Region entry: On 31 March the judges will be given a presentation in the hall and a tour of the village to include businesses and the school.
- c) To review progress of 2009 Competition: The entry is making good progress.

14. To consider adoption of Complaints Procedure: The HAPTC advised that the Parish Complaints Procedure need not be compatible with the principle authorities procedures as it is an independent body with a different structure. Cllrs agreed to adopt the Complaints Procedure.

15. To consider appointing J Pearce to full Clerk status: Cllrs agreed and to implement the pay increase included in the 2009/10 budget.

16. To consider attending the Councillors' Surgery on 4 April: Cllrs Watson and Corke will attend.

17. To agree the format of the Annual Parish Meeting: Herts County Councillor R Smith will talk about policing. A film of the footpaths will be shown. Other items to include will be the Children's Centre, the Allotments, the Issues & Options document, the Church, School, Wickfield Close and a talk from James Mansell.

18. To receive announcements:

- a) The HAPTC AGM: Will take place at the hall on 24 June. The Parish Council will consider organising an e planning demonstration.
- b) New Bench: This will be funded via the Community Chest.

19. Date of next Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting on 14 April, 2009.